

Image taken from this year's DCNR Outdoors for All Day in Harrisburg.

August's EdVentures: Webinars, Pediatric Capacity Building Institute Save the Date, and More!

As we prepare for back-to-school season, the Shapiro Administration continues to support all learners across many different paths. This month, we announced **new grants totaling $3.5 million to expand access to career and technical education**. Seventeen organizations will expand access in fields like advanced manufacturing, construction, digital technology, and energy for learners across the Commonwealth. We also announced more than **$8 million in funding has been dedicated to increasing the pipeline of school psychologists** and delivering mental health services to students in high-need schools across Pennsylvania.

This month, we announced that **Pennsylvania has joined the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact**, a multi-state agreement designed to make it easier for licensed, qualified teachers to move between states and get into classrooms. This agreement will allow educators to more efficiently obtain certification in other member states and will help to grow Pennsylvania's educator pipeline.



Spotlighting: Structured Literacy Universal Screeners

Universal screeners play a vital role in structured literacy implementation, serving as an early and reliable indicator of students' reading health across grade levels. Universal screeners provide the timely, objective data needed to ensure instructional alignment and early intervention. By administering screeners multiple times per year, administrators gain a clear picture of which students are meeting foundational benchmarks and which require targeted, evidence-based support. These data allow leadership teams to allocate resources strategically, evaluate the effectiveness of Tier 1 instruction, and ensure MTSS structures operate proactively rather than reactively. When used consistently and interpreted effectively, universal screeners enable structured literacy practices to remain responsive, equitable, and tightly connected to student needs.

A universal screening assessment should demonstrate several essential qualities. It must be brief, allowing efficient administration across all students. Predictive, providing accurate early identification of students at risk for reading difficulties. Reliable and valid, grounded in strong technical adequacy. Instructionally relevant, offering data that directly informs instructional decision-making and universally administered to all students at standardized intervals to ensure equity. Effective use of a universal screener ensures foundational components of a coherent, high-quality structured literacy system.

To learn more about using and setting up a universal screener, visit **Best Practice for RTI: Universal Screening | Reading Rockets**.

Scholarship Opportunity: PB-IDA Leadership PL Scholarship Application

To help districts bridge the gap between compliance and meaningful classroom practice, the *Pennsylvania Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (PB-IDA)* is offering a **FREE** scholarship opportunity for high-quality professional learning, funded through a generous donor grant.

This scholarship offers:

Team-Based Leadership Capacity: Up to **four (4) K-3 leaders per district** (must include at least one building leader/principal alongside teacher leaders/coaches).

Structured Literacy & Systems Focus: Deepen foundational knowledge of the Science of Reading while designing the organizational infrastructure—coaching, scheduling, instructional alignment, and data protocols—needed for long-term success.

Direct Alignment with Act 47: Ground your district's implementation strategy in evidence-based practices that directly satisfy state mandates while building shared leadership across school buildings.

Applications will be available beginning **September 1, 2026**. The deadline for applying is September 30, 2026. To apply, please visit the **PB-IDA Scholarship form**.

For more information, please contact Candace Hall, Vice President, PB-IDA at **candace.h@pbida.org** or **484-219-2926**.

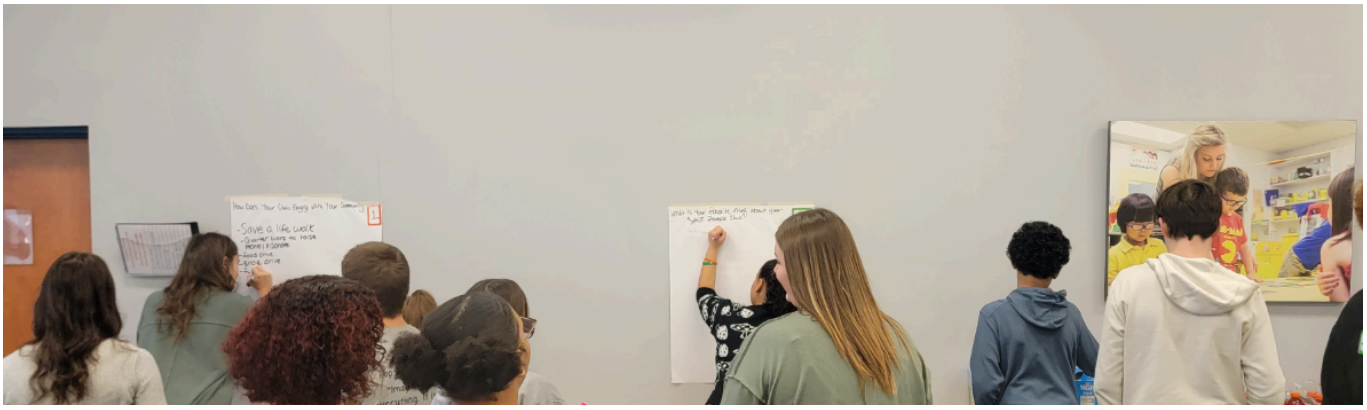


Interest Form Now Live for the 2027-2028 PDE Principal Induction Program

If you are a current Assistant/Vice Building Principal or Building Principal who needs to complete principal induction to apply for your Administrative II certification, visit the **SAS PD Center** to complete the 2027-28 Principal Induction Interest form no later than September 30, 2026.

Information from the interest form will be used to verify eligibility and select the locations for the in-person sessions that will be held in July and August of 2027. Verified administrators who complete the interest form will receive access to pre-enrollment for the 2027-28 program in early 2027.

The PIL Principal Induction Program is one year in length, and participants earn 80 Act 45 Continuing Education hours upon successful completion of the induction program.



Cultivating Connection & Prevention Event

Looking to increase belonging & connectedness for your students as you begin the new school year?

Join the Office of School Climate and Well-Being for an opportunity to learn more about the ways they can support you. This opportunity will feature our partnership with Sandy Hook Promise's Start with Hello & SAVE Promise Clubs.

This one-day event will take place at PaTTAN Central from 10am - 2pm on September 29, 2026. To learn more, please view the **Cultivating Connection & Prevention flyer**. To sign up for this event, please visit the **Cultivating Connection & Prevention Microsoft form**.

Webinar: "Better Together: PDE's Suite of K-12 Data Tools"

Discover the power of connection across Pennsylvania's K–12 data tools. Join the engaging webinar "Better Together: PDE's Suite of K-12 Tools" to explore how seven no-cost PDE resources work together to support continuous improvement and student success. Learn how tools such as the PA Future Ready Index, PVAAS, Data Interaction (eMetric), the Evidence Resource Center, SAS Portal, CDT, and PA Firefly can provide a more complete picture of teaching and learning. Participants will gain practical insights into the purpose and value of each tool, along with ideas for leveraging these resources to support planning and continuous improvement efforts in their LEA or school.

Act 45 (5 hours) and Act 48 credits will be offered for those joining the session live on one of the two webinar dates. For those seeking the 5 hours of Act 45 credit, you will need to complete and submit the culminating activity after your participation in the session.

- August 31, 2026 - 1:00 - 3:00 PM
- October 19, 2026 - 9:00 - 11:00 AM

To register, please visit **Better Together: PDE's Suite of K-12 Tools to Support Continuous Improvement**.



2026 SAS Showcase: Exploring the Redesigned SAS Website

The Standards Aligned System (SAS) Showcase: Exploring the Redesigned SAS Website will help administrators, curriculum leaders, and teacher leaders navigate the updated SAS website and apply its tools to strengthen standards-aligned instruction, curriculum, development, and assessment practices.

Sessions will provide:

- Immediate, practical training for new leaders or leaders who need a refresher
- Increased confidence navigating the new SAS Website
- Clearer alignment between curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- Information for administrators on the new PD Center focused on Act 45
- Access to PDE staff for ongoing support

To help LEAs get the full benefit of the SAS Showcase, we highly encourage each district or school to bring a team. With multiple concurrent sessions offered throughout the day, attending as a group provides two strong advantages:

Teams can travel through sessions together to deepen collective understanding and decision-making.

Or **teams can split across different breakout sessions** to ensure the LEA gains exposure to all available topics.

This structure is intentionally designed to support collaboration, maximize learning, and empower LEAs to leave with actionable insights for their local context

Schedule:
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Networking
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Lunch included)
Act 48 and Act 45 hours available.

To learn more about the available locations and spaces, please review the **2026 SAS Showcase Flyer**. To register, please visit the **2026 SAS Showcase Registration form**.

2026 SAS Showcase Flyer



2028 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Nominations are Open

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) encourages Pennsylvanians to nominate an outstanding educator to be the Commonwealth's 2028 Teacher of the Year.

"Pennsylvania is home to some of the best and brightest educators in the nation, who serve their learners and communities with compassion, integrity, and fidelity," **said Acting Secretary of Education Dr. Carrie Rowe.** "The Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year exemplifies what it means to be an excellent educator—to inspire young minds, embrace learners' unique potential, and shape the future of our Commonwealth."

The Teacher of the Year program celebrates excellence in teaching and honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to learners in Pennsylvania. **Teacher of the Year Nominations** will be accepted until December 11, 2026.

Act 13 & FRCPP Office Hours

Act 13 Office Hours provide guidance and support on implementing Act 13 Educator Effectiveness requirements and processes. Each session provides answers to frequently asked questions and includes an open forum for participants to ask additional questions. To view the schedule of Act 13 Office Hours for the 2026-27 school year and to register, visit the **Educator Effectiveness page** on the SAS website under the Office Hours tab.

The **Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Portal (FRCPP) Office Hours** is an open session for attendees to ask questions about the plans and reports housed within FRCPP. Sessions are held the first **Wednesday of the month from 2:30–3:30pm virtually via Microsoft Teams**. After logging into the FRCPP through **MyPDESuite**, the passcode and meeting ID for these sessions can be found in the bottom left corner of FRCPP's home screen.



Announcing the Fourth Annual Pediatric Capacity Building Institute: Save the Date

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services is excited to announce the Fourth Annual Pediatric Capacity Building Institute (PCBI). PCBI is a unique, interactive, educational experience which occurs over a nine-month period (March 2027 - November 2027). DHS strives to bring exceptional speakers who engage participants in a wide range of topics designed to better support children with complex needs and their families. Some of the topics include infant mental health, leading through change, multisystem planning, impact of trauma on children and families, vicarious trauma among professionals, expressive therapies and much more. PCBI also strives to incorporate the voices and experience of the children and families using these supports and services at every juncture. PCBI is open to professionals across systems with an interest in learning more about supporting children with complex needs and system change.

A **formal invitation** with additional details and an interest survey will be distributed on **9/1/2026.** Each person must complete the **PCBI Year 4 Interest Survey by 10/6/2026** to express interest and confirm their ability to attend all sessions. There are a limited number of spaces available for participants. Persons submitting an interest survey will be notified through email by 11/4/26, as to their admission status.

Additionally, an **informational webinar** will be held on **9/8/2026.** Please register for Pediatric Capacity Building Institute Informational Webinar on **September 8, 2026 10:00 AM EDT at the PCBI Webinar webpage.**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. **Please keep an eye out for the invitation and interest survey. We look forward to hearing from you!**

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